

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for holding a fiber optic connector having a ferrule containing an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a clamp including a nest defining an opening sized to hold a ferrule, the nest including a moveable portion moveable between a first position where the nest is sized to receive the ferrule and a second position where the nest is sized to clamp the ferrule, the moveable portion being biased toward the second position.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a plate, wherein the moveable portion of the clamp includes a cantilever located between slots defined within the plate.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the plate includes a plurality of clamps each including a nest, the nests having moveable portions biased toward second positions where the nests are sized to clamp ferrules, the moveable portions including cantilevers located between slots defined by the plate.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the plate defines a central opening, and the plurality of nests are positioned about a circumference of the central opening.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein free end portions of the cantilevers project into the central opening.

6. The device of claim 4, wherein the slots include first slots that extend radially outwardly from the central opening and through the openings of the nests, and second slots that extend radially outwardly from the central opening and are offset from the first slots.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the clamp further includes a fixed portion that opposes the moveable portion.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the moveable portion projects beyond the fixed portion and is adapted for receiving a displacement force for moving the moveable portion between the first and second positions.

9. A device for holding a fiber optic connector having a ferrule containing an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a clamp including a nest sized to hold a ferrule, the nest including a flexible cantilever portion moveable between a first, flexed, position where the nest is sized to receive the ferrule and a second, at rest position where the nest is sized to clamp the ferrule.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the device includes a plurality of the clamps.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the nests of the clamps are arranged in a circular array.

12. A device for holding fiber optic connectors having ferrules containing optical fibers, the device comprising:

a plate including a plurality of nests, each nest defining a nest opening for receiving one of the ferrules, each nest including a cantilever positioned on one side of the nest opening and a fixed portion positioned on an opposite side of the nest opening;

each cantilever being located between a first plate slot that extends through the corresponding nest opening and a second plate slot offset from the first plate slot; and

the cantilevers being flexibly moveable between first, flexed, positions where the nests are sized to receive the ferrules and a second, at rest position where the nests are sized to clamp the ferrules.